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SIR:

Attached hereto for filing are the following papers:

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Our check in the amount of \$ --0-- is attached covering any required fees. In the event that any variance exists between the amount enclosed and the Patent Office charges for filing the above-noted documents, including any fees required under 37 CFR 1.136 for any necessary Extension of Time to make the filing of the attached documents timely, please charge or credit our Deposit Account No. 15-0030. Further, if these papers are not considered timely filed, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for the necessary extension of time. A duplicate copy of this sheet is attached.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

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Gregory J. Maier
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O I P E J C Y T
JAN 31 2003
PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

DOCKET NO: 199153US-620-39-2S

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF:

NAOHISA KAMIYAMA : GROUP: 3737
SERIAL NO: 09/696,965 : EXAMINER: W. JUNG
FILED: OCTOBER 27, 2000 :
FOR: ULTRASOUND DIAGNOSTIC APPARATUS

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RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

In response to the Restriction Requirement dated December 31, 2002, Applicants provisionally elect with traverse Group I, Claims 1-18, 23, 24, and 25, directed to scanning via transmission and reception control circuit which is in line with electronic array scanning. Applicants traverse the restriction requirement for the following reason:

MPEP § 803 states:

MPEP § 803

... If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions.

However, the outstanding Restriction Requirement has not established that an undue burden would exist if the Restriction Requirement was not issued and all the claims were examined together. Moreover, the claims of the present invention would appear to be part of an overlapping search area. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully also traverse the outstanding

Restriction requirement on the grounds that a search and examination of the entire application would not place a *serious* burden on the Examiner.

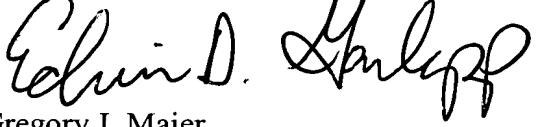
Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the requirement to elect a single group be withdrawn, and that a full examination on the merits of Claims 1-28 be conducted.

Attention should be drawn to Applicant's representatives' change of address, effectively January 6, 2003:

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Respectfully submitted,

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